

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 14th November 1903.

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ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 26th October has the following :—

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS, HABLUL
MATEEN,
Oct. 26th, 1903.

Lord Curzon's proposed Gulf tour.

The English newspapers say that during his tour in the Persian Gulf, Lord Curzon will hold a darbar somewhere there. We do not understand what those papers mean by the word "darbar." The real meaning of the term is a *leves* held by a sovereign at any place within his dominions for the purpose of celebrating some court ceremony. But there is no place around the Persian Gulf which belongs to England, nor has the Gulf itself, which is under the control of Persia and Turkey, any connection with the British Government. If Lord Curzon holds a darbar either on a British ship of war or at Bagdad or elsewhere, as stated by the English newspapers, His Excellency will be holding it either within the Turkish Empire or within the Kingdom of Persia. But it does not seem probable that either the Persian Darbar or the Porte will allow such a darbar within their country. If, however, Lord Curzon is allowed to hold his proposed darbar and neither Persia, Turkey nor any other Power having an interest in the Persian Gulf opposes it, that will go a great way towards establishing British supremacy over those waters. What Lord Curzon will do in the darbar or whatever else you may call it will have a political motive underlying it—a motive which will not remain altogether unknown to Russia, England's great rival. If a darbar is held, Russia will take all possible measures to frustrate its object, and will at least persuade the Persian Court and the Porte to oppose such a demonstration.

2. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 2nd Novem-

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Nov. 2nd, 1903.

Lord Curzon's proposed visit to the Persian Gulf.

ber thinks that Russia, France, and Germany will each send a man of war to the Persian Gulf apparently for the purpose of welcoming Lord Curzon when he pays his proposed visit to those waters, but really for the purpose of keeping a sharp eye on his movements.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th November publishes the following from correspondents:—

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 5th, 1903.

Oppressiveness of the chaukidari-tax.

Midnapore.—The village chaukidars serve no useful purpose whatever. They only attend the thana once a week. The Chaukidari Act has conferred no benefit on the people. On the contrary, it has been a source of misery to them. The chaukidari jagir lands ought not to have been allowed to be taken possession of by the zamindars. The panchayet and the dafadar do no useful work. A collecting panchayet says that the brass *lota* and cup of a helpless widow were seized by the chaukidars and sold to realize the chaukidari-tax due from her.

Murshidabad.—There is great injustice in some villages in the Daulatbazar thana in the assessment of the chaukidari-tax. Those who are well-to-do are the panchayets, and they fix the rates of chaukidari-tax. The injustice of the assessment will appear from the following instances:—

- (1) Sarat Chandra Sarkar, a resident of village Bardaha. Monthly income less than Rs. 10. Monthly tax 3 annas 3 pies.
- (2) Hari Sarkar, of the same village, a cultivator. Monthly income about Rs. 7. Monthly tax 3 annas.

But the following four persons, who are panchayets, have incomes and pay chaukidari-taxes as under:—

- (1) Radhikanath Maitra, a resident of village Kaladanga. Monthly income Rs. 20. Monthly tax 1 anna 3 pies.
- (2) Sahabat Mandal, a resident of the same village. Monthly income about Rs. 16. Monthly tax 1 anna 3 pies.
- (3) Torap Mandal, of village Nayadah. Has money-lending business to the extent of Rs. 1,200. Monthly tax 1 anna 3 pies.
- (4) Pratap Chandra Saha, of village Sarasabad. Has one lakh of rupees invested in business. Monthly tax 2 annas only.

Dacca.—The inhabitants of Outsbahi, a village in the Munshigunge sub-division, are mostly very poor. But about Rs. 500 is raised annually from this village as chaukidari-tax. There are five chaukidars, but they never go out on their rounds at night. The panchayet, the dafadar, and the chaukidars do nothing, and yet they enjoy their salaries like pensions. The oppressions on the poor villages in the realization of the tax are extreme. Will Government allow such a miserable state of things to continue?

HITAVADI,
Nov. 6th, 1903.

4. A correspondent from Baharpur, a village in the Goalundo subdivision of the Faridpur district, writes to the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th November as follows:—

On the night of the 20th October last, one Azim Sheikh, an inhabitant of Baharpur, went to catch fish in a neighbouring *beel*, leaving his young wife, Jahar Bibi, and an infant five months old in his house. At dead of night, three ruffians, Golam Ali *alias* Golabdi Sheikh, Pachai Sheikh, and Bhajan Sheikh, entered into the house by pushing aside the door, and before the woman could cry out, gagged her mouth. They snatched the child from the arms of the woman, threw it on the ground, and then put out the lamp. As the men were trying to drag the woman out of the house, she severely bit the little finger of the man who had gagged her and cried out. Her cries brought Haru Sheikh, Heraz Sheikh and other persons to the spot, and then the *budmashes* fled. Next morning, Azim Sheikh lodged an information with the Sub-Inspector of the Baliakandi thana. But Jamini Babu, the junior Sub-Inspector, did not come to the place of occurrence for enquiry till late in the evening next day. Jahar Bibi and her two neighbours deposed that they had recognised the culprits. Many persons deposed that they had recognised Pachai and Bhajan. Golam Ali and Bhajan Sheikh were subsequently arrested and brought to the thana. But the Sub-Inspector let off Golam without taking down the deposition of a single witness. Bhajan was released on furnishing security for Rs. 200. It is not at all clear why the police have not yet arrested the man whose finger was bitten by the woman. The complainant, Azim Sheikh, finds it difficult to conduct the case for fear of the *budmashes*.

HITAVADI

5. A correspondent writes to the same paper that thefts and dacoities are daily becoming more frequent in the Barhatta thana in the Mymensingh district. But the police are quite indifferent. About twelve cases of theft have occurred since last *Bhadra*, but the police have not succeeded in tracing a single offender. Two months ago, the Sub-Inspector of Schools and the Inspecting Pandit of the Kendua Circle, while out on tour in a boat, were robbed by dacoits near Khalapara, who carried away everything they had, including all their records and papers. The police were duly informed, but have not yet submitted their final report. A few days afterwards Beni Babu, a Deputy Magistrate of Mymensingh, was similarly robbed by dacoits at a place not far from Khalapara. The police, as usual, have failed to trace the culprits.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 7th, 1903.

6. Referring to the question of the removal of prostitutes from the principal streets of Calcutta, which has been exercising the minds of the Calcutta public for some time past, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 7th November observes that their zeal, which is no doubt laudable, is apt to carry them too far in this direction. It is certainly a fact that prostitutes try to lead light-minded youths astray and that drunken brawls sometimes ending in bloodshed and vile vituperations are very frequent in the brothels. That with a view to the preservation of the morals of young men and the peace of the streets, the prostitutes should be removed, must be admitted. But where should the prostitutes go? They are creatures of this earth, and cannot certainly be expected to build nests on the tops of trees, like birds, to live in, though guilty of the enormities with which they are charged. Consequently, when driven away from the streets, they must of necessity find their dwelling-places inside respectable quarters. They have, in fact, actually done so. The prostitutes who have been driven away from Cornwallis Street have occupied rooms wherever available in respectable localities. It must not be supposed, however, that they have, after so doing and for so doing, abandoned their vicious practices. The police watch at night is not so strict in respectable quarters as on the large streets. Where

then is the respectable householder to go with his family, if prostitutes, with all their midnight orgies, obscene songs, and numberless other wickednesses, invade his vicinity? In the large streets there may be many restraints on their excesses, but at other places no restraint is possible. No respectable man living with wife and daughters will dare speak a word against them. If prostitutes in the streets bring about the ruin of a single youth, prostitutes living in the respectable localities will pave the way to the ruin of the wives and daughters of many householders. No one will be able to live peacefully in his own house. Which of these two evils is the greater? It is hoped that the Police Commissioner will take all these facts into his careful consideration before giving final orders. It will not do to look at only one side of the question.

7. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 7th November learns from a trustworthy source that the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, at the request of the Calcutta Medical Association and some respectable people, intends to have the patent medicines advertised by certain persons under English *nom-de-plumes* examined chemically. This will be a very good thing no doubt, but the medicines should be procured privately to avoid being imposed upon by those persons with medicines different from what are ordinarily sold by them in the market.

NAVA YUG,
Nov. 7th, 1903.

8. Babu Satyaranjan Ray, No. 1, Sribas Datta's Lane, Howrah, writes to the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 7th November that at 11 P.M., on the 25th October last, Babu Nivaran Chandra Mukharji, an inhabitant of Panchanantala, Howrah, was attacked by four *gundas* on the Howrah Church Road, north of the local burial ground, and robbed of Rs. 7. He informed the constable who was on duty at the Fansitola beat. The latter, however, did nothing in the matter. Such cases frequently occur at the southern corner of the Buckland Jetty, in front of the Magistrate's Court, and in Church Road. People going to these places alone at night are sure to fall into the hands of *gundas*. At night these *gundas* may be seen lying on the foot-path on both sides of the landing stage of the Buckland Jetty. Sometimes they remain hidden under the stage.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Nov. 7th, 1903.

9. A correspondent writes to the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 8th November that thefts are very frequent in Nagarbari, a village in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district. A case occurred last Wednesday night in the house of Babu Jagat Govinda Basu. The *budmashes* threaten to burn down the house of any person giving information to the police against them. It is high time that the police made a determined effort to bring the culprits to justice.

DACCA PRAKAS,
Nov. 8th, 1903.

10. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th November is sorry to hear that Babu Beharilal Sarkar, Sub-Inspector of Police, Bankura, has been transferred to Burdwan. Such an honest police officer is seldom met with.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Nov. 8th, 1903.

11. A correspondent writing to the *Prativast* [Calcutta] of the 9th November invites the attention of the Commissioner of Police to the fact that while all the prostitutes in the northern portion of Cornwallis Street have been compelled to vacate their quarters, a prostitute still remains there. There is no reason why an exception should be made in a particular case. It is to be hoped that the Commissioner of Police will compel the prostitute to leave her house, which is situate on the eastern side of the street.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

12. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 1st November remarks that, according to the Hindu *Shastras*, when a man kills a cat, he must, by way of expiation for his sin, make a gift of salt to the Brahmin priest equal in weight to the animal killed. When a cow is killed, the *Shastras* require the sinner to give away many *kahans* of cowries. But when a black nigger is murdered by a European, the murderer is in most cases either let off or fined a few rupees.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 1st, 1903.

Native life held ridiculously cheap in the law-courts.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 4th, 1903.

13. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th November says that three coolies attached to the Tejpur tea-garden were charged with having beaten their Manager, Mr. Clarke, and sentenced by the local Magistrate to undergo one year's imprisonment each. An appeal was preferred to the District Judge, who, instead of setting aside or reducing the sentence, wrote to the High Court for its enhancement. On this, Mr. Justice Sale has enhanced it to one of three years' imprisonment. What wonder that the man who acquitted Bain, charged with the murder a cooly, should order an enhancement of sentence in a case against coolies? It is hoped that in future, cases like these will not be placed in Mr. Justice Sale's file.

JYOTI,
Nov. 5th, 1903.

14. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 5th November expresses disappointment at the heartless manner in which criminal appeals are nowadays disposed of in the High Court. Justices Sale and Handley are reported to be lightly dismissing criminal appeals and motions after reading only the judgments of the District Judges. The judgments of Magistrates and Judges are not certainly always free from error, and very few persons, perhaps even less than five per cent. of those who are convicted by the lower Courts, can afford to prefer appeals even to District Judges, not to speak of the High Court. This being the case, the Judges of the High Court should patiently and with their best attention consider those cases which are brought before them by parties who stake their all in order to free themselves from grievous penalties. If in such cases the desire to clear the file and utter carelessness on the part of High Court Judges become prominent characteristics, the future of the country must be very gloomy. Government and the public should, under such circumstances, seriously ponder over the matter.

(d)—Education.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 6th, 1903.

15. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th November says that the Rampur Hat High School has suffered great deterioration under the Secretaryship of Babu Jugal Bihari Makarh, a Pleader. Babu Nagendra Nath Ray, who has served as the Head-master of the school with great credit for the last five years, and who holds first-class certificates from Rai Radhanath Ray, Bahadur, the late Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Division, and from Mr. A. W. Botham, the late Subdivisional Officer, and Mr. A. J. Lane, the present Subdivisional Officer of Rampur Hat, has been compelled to resign. In his resignation letter he says: "The Secretary and Committee have of late years been so interfering in the internal management of the school that I cannot continue in my present post with any sense of self-respect." There is only one chair in the office-room of the school, and that is invariably occupied by the Secretary, whose legal practice is almost nil. The Head-master has therefore to do all office business, standing. The Secretary sometimes asks the Head-master and the other teachers of the school to get their salaries from his house. He issued an order to the effect that the Head-master should under no circumstances grant even half an hour's leave to the school-boys. In such matters, also, as the framing of routines, giving promotion to boys, etc., the Secretary interfered in the Head-master's work. He also used to rebuke the Head-master publicly.

The correspondent asks the Secretary the following questions:—

(1) Does not the Secretary keep with himself more than a thousand rupees belonging to the school? If so, is he not bound to pay interest for the same? For what purpose does he keep so much money when the fees collected from students yield a monthly surplus of nearly Rs. 125 after defraying all the expenses of the school?

(2) How is it that when there is so much money in the Secretary's hands, there are no *punkha* arrangements for nearly 300 students, not more than one privy and no urinal in the school, that students drink off the palms of their hands for want of tumblers, that the teachers' chairs are in a dilapidated condition, and that the roof of the thatched house in which nearly 165 boys read is in a rickety condition?

(3) How is it that though the late fourth teacher, Babu Hem Chandra Chatterji, was allowed six months' leave after one year's service, the poor sixth teacher was not allowed two hours' leave after three years' service? Is it not true that the Secretary was at that time trying to have his legal practice enlarged in Barala through the influence of the late fourth teacher's father? Again, a pundit of 25 years' standing was suspended for 17 or 18 days for outstaying for only one day his leave without pay.

16. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 8th November writes as follows:—

DACCA PRAKAS,
Nov. 8th, 1903.

The new system of Lower examinations in Bengal.

The Director of Public Instruction has abolished the old method of holding the Primary and Middle Scholarship examinations and introduced a new method in its place. He says:—

"The Primary and Middle Scholarship examinations from the year 1904 onwards will be held as Private School examinations; and a few selected candidates only will be examined for the scholarships. The courses prescribed above are intended for the candidates for scholarships; it is optional with schools, other than "Private," not preparing such candidates, to use the books included in this course, or other books from the list of books approved and published by Government. . . . It is optional with private schools to introduce books approved under the new scheme and compete for scholarships."

In matters like this the practice is to justify an innovation on the ground of the unfitness, perniciousness or want of necessity of an old and existing system. Now the question before us is, on which of these grounds has the Director of Public Instruction introduced the innovation? It will not do to say that the old method of holding the Lower examinations was unfit for the purpose it was intended to serve or pernicious in its effect. But if it is said that, guided by the illiberal policy which is popularly believed to guide all its actions nowadays, Government considered the old method unnecessary, the question is set at rest. The public would, however, have still a right to express its opinion in the matter. An examination by a person or a committee appointed by the Government means its recognition of the merits of the successful boys in certain things and under certain conditions and circumstances, and this recognition by Government has a certain value, which the people are bound to admit and which they do, as a matter of fact, admit. Examination is one of the means by which men seek to acquire distinction and the public ascertain the worth of particular persons. By its abolition, boys lose their stimulus to study and the public an opportunity of judging people's merits. Under the new method of holding the Lower examinations, only a small number of boys will be thought fit to compete for scholarships, and there will remain no means of ascertaining the merit of the vast majority of students. On the other hand, the prospect before those students who have only to secure certificates will be darkened for ever. The new system thus sounds the death-knell of lower education in Bengal. Is there none in the country who can clearly explain these things to the authorities?

17. The same paper writes as follows:—

DACCA PRAKAS.

The prices and get-up of vernacular text-books.

The educational notification which has appeared in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 2nd November last, contains the following passage:—

"Authors and publishers of the books included in the courses above prescribed are informed that the price of the books is considered as part of the approval here given. Any unauthorised increase of the price of a book may result in the withdrawal of the book from the approved list. The books must also conform to the standard required by the Text-Book Committee as regards such matters as general get-up, paper, printing, binding, and illustrations."

We know that many authors at first print a small number of copies of their books on excellent paper for submission to the Text-Book Committee; but afterwards, when these books are prescribed as text-books, they are wretchedly printed and published. Many unprincipled authors go even so far as to sell these books at enhanced prices. Sometimes they try to keep up appearances by sticking small slips of paper giving the enhanced prices in print upon the original prices. The educational authorities do not care to keep themselves informed of these malpractices of the authors. Who then is responsible for the loss which these unscrupulous authors cause to poor people? The attention of the Director of Public Instruction is drawn to the matter in the hope that he will put a stop to these evil practices of the authors.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Nov. 9th, 1903.

18. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 9th November is glad that Dr. P. K. Ray, Principal of the Dacca College, has,

The new system of vernacular education in high schools found unworkable in Dacca.

since his arrival in that place, paid much attention to the system of school and college education there. Mr. Pedler's new system of vernacular education, recently introduced into the Dacca Collegiate School, has been found to be practically unworkable, inasmuch as the large number of vernacular text-books required to be read under this system, has made it extremely difficult for the boys to go on with their studies. As a consequence, many guardians have removed their boys from the Collegiate School and sent them to private schools. Babu Bhuban Mohan Sen, late Head-master of the Dacca Collegiate School, represented this matter to Mr. Pedler, but nothing came of it. Last Friday, Dr. Ray held a conference consisting of the Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division, and the Head-masters and Assistant Head-masters of the Collegiate School, Training School, and the Madrassa, in which the new scheme was discussed. Dr. Ray proposes to introduce certain new rules in the lower classes of the school department.

DACCA GAZETTE.

19. The same paper has the following in its English columns:—

Moulavi Muhammad Ibrahim,
Inspector of Schools.

During the last Puja vacation there have been many changes in the Education Department, the most noticeable one being, so far as East Bengal is concerned, the transfer of Moulavi Muhammad Ibrahim as Inspector of Schools to Burdwan. During the short time he was here, he succeeded in winning the golden opinions of all Hindus and Muhammadans. In the discharge of his official duties, he always used to be guided by a strict sense of justice—racial considerations having had no place there. In his private life, he was noted for his piety. His affable manners and uniform courtesy to one and all who came in contact with him went a great way to explain his general popularity among all sections of people.

NIHAR,
Nov. 10th, 1903.

20. A correspondent of the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 10th November says that the upper primary schools under the Ramnagar thana in the Midnapore district get monthly aids of Rs. 2, 3, or 4 from the District Board. In a village school very little is realised from students. Teachers have, therefore, to depend solely on aids granted by District Boards. But the teachers of the above schools have not received their aids since March last. They have consequently fallen into great pecuniary difficulty. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

PRATIJNA,
Nov. 4th, 1903.

21. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 4th November says that there is no

The cows in the Kidderpore cattle market.

shelter for cows in the Kidderpore cattle market. The poor dumb creatures are consequently exposed to the inclemencies of the weather in all seasons. The owner of the market ought to be compelled under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to construct sheds for them.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 4th, 1903.

22. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th November writes as follows:—

The Calcutta Municipality and the approaching plague season.

A trying time for the inhabitants of Calcutta is approaching. The plague season is at hand. But the municipal authorities are still sleeping. They will awake when in March people will die by the hundred every day, and they will then make weak and ineffectual efforts to cleanse dark and filthy lanes which never see the face of the sun, to remove heaps of refuse accumulated in the streets, and to disinfect infected houses. The maxim that prevention is better than cure is lost on the Calcutta Municipality. The northern quarter of the town, and especially the Jorasanko, Jorabagan, Bagbazar, and some other localities in it, are the most dangerous plague spots in Calcutta. But the Municipality has as yet done nothing to improve their sanitary condition. Every man who knows anything of sanitary science knows that there are various ways in which plague can be prevented and its virulence reduced. Dirty, dark, damp and unventilated places are most favourable to the increase and development of plague germs. Why does not the Municipality seek out such places

in the town and cleanse them? The existence of filthy nauseating slums in Calcutta is a shame to the British Government. As for ourselves, we undertake to help the authorities with information and advice as to the situation of the unhealthy places in the Bagbazar locality and the manner in which their sanitary condition may be improved.

23. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 5th November draws attention to the following rule published in the *Calcutta Gazette*:—

Jyoti,
Nov. 5th, 1903.

The 5th October 1903.—No. 122 Marine.—In exercise of the powers vested in the Local Government under section 6 of the Indian Ports Act, 1889, the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to make the following rule in the place of the rule proposed in Notification No. 82 Marine, dated the 1st July last, and in supersession of Rule 24 of the Rules for the Port of Chittagong sanctioned under Notification No. 144 Marine, dated the 2nd June 1890. The proposed rule will be taken into consideration on the expiry of a month from the date of its publication in the *Gazette*, and the Lieutenant-Governor will consider any suggestions or observations that may be made by any person concerning it within that period:—

"No catamaran, flat, passenger or other boat shall ply for hire, whether regularly or only occasionally, within, or partly within and partly without, the waters of the Port south of the Anti-Mahamed Ghat Ferry, unless licensed and registered by the Port Commissioners. No such vessel shall be allowed to ply as foresaid except under the direction of a person licensed by the Commissioners."

and writes as follows:—

Government took no special steps to make known the contents of the above rule to those who will be affected by it. It was for this reason that no representation was made to Government pointing out the objectionable features of the rule within one month from the date of its publication in the *Gazette*. We hope His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser will give an opportunity to the public to say their say before passing final orders in the matter.

The rule provides that no boat "shall ply for hire, whether regularly or only occasionally, within, or partly within and partly without, the waters of the Port." This will be unjust. Mufassal boats which come to the Port only occasionally should not be subjected to such stringent rules. Moreover, the Port chaprasis will get ample opportunities for oppressing the poor boatmen even if the latter keep outside the limits of the Port. We hope His Honour will be pleased to expunge this obnoxious portion from the rule quoted above.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

24. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th November writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Nov. 6th, 1903.

Settlement oppressions in the Sonthal Parganas.

Lately we published some account of the oppressive proceedings of the Settlement Officers in the Sonthal Parganas, and we have been informed that the authorities called for explanations from them. But as everything had to be done in secret in order to save the prestige of the Government, the matter was easily hushed up. Such conduct on the part of the Government, however effective it may be in maintaining its prestige, is calculated to diminish people's faith in its sense of justice. Some of the officers against whom complaints were made are now threatening the poor people that they will take revenge on them.

A trustworthy correspondent informs us that Babu Devendra Nath Basu, M.A., who is now doing settlement work in the Burhai taluk within the Deoghur subdivision, is in the habit of committing great *zulm*. Wherever he goes he makes all the villagers remain in attendance in his Court every day from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. Most of these villagers are poor day-labourers, who have consequently to starve for remaining unemployed. Devendra Babu holds his Court with a stick on his table and raiyats speak to him with joined hands. If any raiyat, whilst speaking to him in this manner, happens to be so careless as to move his hands, however slightly, the Assistant Settlement Officer's stick instantly falls on his head. Devendra Babu's conduct is equally bad towards respectable people, and he is in the habit of using some obscene Hindi words in season and out of season.

The inhabitants of the Karo pargana under the Madhupur thana have, in a petition to the Deputy Commissioner at Dumka, stated, among other

things, that in classifying lands, settlement amins are in the habit of proceeding in a manner which is beneficial to zamindars but highly detrimental to raiyats.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 3rd, 1903.

25. A correspondent writes to the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 3rd November that the road running from the Subarnakhali steamer station to Tangail sadly needs repairs. There is heavy traffic on this road, and yet the District Board makes no arrangements for its repair. There is another road which branches off from the above and passes through Bhuapur, Sialkhol, Narandia and other important villages. It is under the Tangail Local Board, and is one of the most important roads in the district. As there are many breaks in the road, carts laden with goods cannot easily pass. It is to be hoped that the District Board will take early steps to repair the above two roads and construct bridges over the breaks, so that men and loaded carts may easily pass over them.

The Mymensingh-Subarnakhali road also requires repair at many places. Great inconvenience has resulted from the breakdown of a bridge near Gopalpur. The bridge should be reconstructed as soon as possible.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 4th, 1903.

26. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th November is glad that a Bengali named Satkari Ghosh has been appointed an Assistant District Traffic Superintendent by the East Indian Railway Company.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,

27. The same paper says that it is the want of overbridges in many of the stations on the East Indian Railway which gives rise to those deplorable accidents which frequently occur there. People are run over by trains in crossing the railway lines. There are no overbridges in nine out of the twelve stations between Burdwan and Asansol, and it has become urgently necessary to supply the want in four out of these nine stations, viz., the Khana, Mankar Panagarh, and Kalipahari stations. Khana is a large junction station, Mankar is a trade-centre, the railway lines at Panagarh cut the Grand Trunk Road and another much-frequented road which extends to Puri on the south, Birbhum on the north, and Katwa on the east, and Kalipahari is situate in the midst of 25 coal depôts. Under clause 1, section 14 of the Railways Act of 1890, Government can order the Company to construct overbridges at these places.

JYOTI,
Nov. 5th, 1903.

28. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 5th November complains that the Assam-Bengal Railway authorities are quite unmindful of the convenience of passengers. On Sunday last, a respectable gentleman travelling from Comilla to Chittagong was greatly inconvenienced on his journey, because there was no light in the waiting-room at the Comilla station and the roof of the second-class carriage in which he travelled was full of cracks, through which water fell inside. The third-class carriages are mostly as bad as ever, and there are no inter-class carriages at all. The number of carriages, moreover, is insufficient; there is hardly any arrangement for supply of water to passengers; no latrine arrangements in third-class carriages, and no waiting-room at Sitakund, where there is a large concourse of passengers. The railway authorities are doing nothing to remove these inconveniences.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 6th, 1903.

29. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th November publishes the following railway complaints:—

Railway complaints.

(1) Sheikh Anaral Huq, Howrah, says that on the 2nd November last, nearly 500 coolies attached to the railway workshop at Lilua on the East Indian Railway forced themselves into the first and second class carriages in the 16-down train, and even ladies' compartments were invaded by them. The coolies ought not to be allowed to travel in other than third class carriages.

(2) Babu Barada Kanta Sen, physician, Bhagalpur, says that Mr. H. J. M. Hays, the supervising station-master of Monihari Ghat, commits all sorts of oppressions on passengers. It is a regular practice with him to realise money from passengers on the alleged charge of their having broken window glasses in railway carriages. The correspondent himself had once to pay Rs. 7-2

on that charge. Mr. Hays abuses passengers, hands them over to the police without cause, and otherwise harasses them in many ways. His conduct towards his subordinates is also very oppressive. One day he threatened a guard on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, another day he sent an X.R. message to the District Traffic Superintendent of Katihar falsely alleging that a certain guard was drunk. He has suspended a signaller for no offence. He has also temporarily suspended a guard named Brown, with whom he picked a quarrel.

(3) Mr. R. D. Mukherji, Damdim, speaks of extreme hardship suffered by coolies on the Bengal Duars Railway. They buy tickets, but when they cannot get into trains for want of room, they are abused and kicked out by the railway servants. The correspondent is an eye-witness of such occurrences. The poor people lose their money and are also persecuted. The Manager of the railway is requested to make arrangements for supplying carriages for these coolies.

(4) An Assistant station-master on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway complains that salaries are disbursed on the line one month after they fall due. This causes great hardship to the poor railway servants. Again, salaries are disbursed by the pay-clerk from his carriage, so that in the stations in which trains stop for a very short time, railway servants receiving their salaries cannot examine their accounts or even count the moneys which they receive. The correspondent had once to sign most reluctantly a blank receipt presented to him by the pay-clerk for his salary. The attention of the railway authorities is drawn to these matters.

30. The same paper has the following railway complaints:—

Railway complaints.

(1) Jnanada Prasad Ghosh, Teghara, complains that nowadays most trains on the Eastern Bengal State Railway are not provided with milk-vans. For this reason milkmen are greatly inconvenienced and they often miss the trains. If they miss the Goalundo Mixed in the morning, they not only suffer great loss on account of their milk being putrified, but they have also to pay a fine to the Railway Company, for the rule is that any milkman travelling by the 8-38 train (Kanchrapara local train) shall pay a fine of four annas. It is incomprehensible on what ground this fine is realised from milkmen, inasmuch as the monthly tickets which they hold empower them to travel by all trains.

(2) A correspondent says that all trains, with the exception of the Darjeeling Mail, running between Saraghat and the northern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, contain only one carriage divided into first and second class compartments. This causes great inconvenience to first and second class native passengers, who often suffer very bad treatment at the hands of first and second class European passengers. The Railway Company is requested to provide these trains with one second class and one first class carriage.

(3) Babu Yatindra Nath Ray, Nababganj, Rangpur district, says that on the 23rd October last, a police head-constable, accompanied by a number of police servants, entered into an intermediate class carriage in the Down Darjeeling Mail at the Jalpaiguri station, and began to drink and cut jokes at the expense of some respectable female passengers. At Saidpur another police head-constable got into the carriage and was informed by the correspondent, who was also travelling in that carriage, of these men's conduct, but to no effect. They left the carriage at the Parbatipur Junction station. The men are attached to the Saidpur thana.

31. The same paper is astonished to see that the Agent of the East Indian Railway Company has at last punished the booking-clerk of the Nalhati station, Mrigendra

The Nalhati outrage case.

Lal Banerji, who some time ago attempted to outrage the modesty of a woman in the station-house, with a fine of only seven days' pay. The District Traffic Superintendent of Sahebganj, who had recommended his dismissal, has, however, transferred him to another station. The District Traffic Superintendent has also understood what the conduct of the station-master in the case was. He is therefore requested to appoint an able and conscientious station-master at Nalhati. A correspondent says that one of the station staff regularly carries with him instruments for extracting goods from parcels. Valuable eatables are found in the houses of many of the poorly-paid station officers.

HITAVADI.
Nov. 6th. 1903.

HITAVADI.

SAMAY,
Nov. 6th, 1903.

32. A lady correspondent, Srimati Ambujanandini Ghosh, writes to the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 6th November as follows:—

Inconvenience of passengers on the Eastern Bengal State Railway and the Bengal Duars Railway.

The intermediate class carriages on the Eastern Bengal State Railway are exactly like third class carriages, the only difference consisting in colour. And yet passengers have to pay fares one and-a-half times the fares for the third class. This is great injustice. Into inter-class ladies' compartments third class female passengers are freely allowed, to the great inconvenience of those who hold inter-class tickets. For native ladies to travel second class is, for obvious reasons, out of the question. There is no arrangement for the supply of good drinking water at any station, and our sufferings were great. There are only two carriages, one third class and another intermediate, which are through carriages running from Sara to Dhubri. The third class through passengers were too many, so that, many of them not finding room in the third class carriage, entered into the inter-class carriage, and I had to sit up all night with my children in my arms. The railway officers see this inconvenience of the passengers almost every day, but they do not think of adding another through carriage. There are privy arrangements in female compartments, but female passengers cannot use them because they are very seldom washed and the stench issuing therefrom is most offensive. Very different is the case on the East Indian Railway. How is it that the Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities do not think it worth their while to look to the comfort and convenience of their passengers from whom such large profits are derived?

At the Lalmanirhaut station we had to change train for the Bengal Duars Railway. There are no inter-class carriages on this line, though inter-class tickets were sold to us for the whole journey. We were compelled to travel third class from Lalmanirhaut. No notice whatever was, as usual, taken of this our inconvenience and loss.

At the Lalmanirhaut station a young woman, who had alighted there by mistake, was left behind, while her husband remained in the train ignorant of her helpless condition.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Nov. 6th, 1903.

33. A correspondent writing to the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the

The Punjab Mail not stopping at the Hooghly station.

6th November complains that the East Indian Railway authorities have done a great injustice to Hooghly by not allowing the Punjab Mail to touch there for a few minutes. Hooghly is the head-quarters station of the district, the seat of the Divisional Commissioner, and an important junction station. It is to be hoped that the authorities will reconsider their decision and allow the Punjab Mail to stop at Hooghly for a few minutes.

RATNAKAR,
Nov. 7th, 1903.

34. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 7th November says that nowadays

Want of waiting-rooms at the Asansol railway station.

the rush of passengers is so great in the Asansol station on the East Indian Railway that respectable men, women, and children are obliged to take shelter under trees or wait in the open space outside the station-house. Everyone knows how much a respectable native woman suffers in mind when she is exposed to the gaze of common people. The railway authorities are therefore requested to supply the want of waiting-rooms for respectable men and women in the Asansol station. The *musafirkhana* at the station always remains full of up-country pilgrims.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 5th, 1903.

35. Babu Matilal Bhaumick writes to the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th November as follows:—

A railway grievance.

The Kharagpur station is the most important and the largest on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Thousands of passengers assemble there every day. There are numerous buildings there for railway officers and for other purposes of the railway. All the arrangements there are on a gigantic scale, so much so, indeed, that the traveller is struck with wonder. But it must be said that all this splendour is owing to the income derived from passengers, 95 per cent. of whom are third class passengers. It is well known that many respectable persons in our country are obliged to travel third class. But the treatment which these third class passengers receive at the hands of the railway employes, and the arrangements made at

the stations for their convenience, are scandalous. At the Kharagpur station there are two miserable thatched huts, called *musafirhanas*, more fit for cattle than for human beings. These are intended to serve the purpose of waiting-rooms for third class passengers, who are driven into them like cattle by the station chaprasis. We went to see how the third class passengers were faring in those houses, and the sight of misery and distress we beheld moved us greatly. There are no lighting arrangements, and the sufferings of the passengers at night are indescribable. There is only one vendor of native sweets for such a large number of passengers, and the man charges very high prices for the articles of food he supplies. The reason for demanding such high price was, he said, that he had to pay Rs. 350 monthly as rent for the little space allowed him for his shop. What a pity that the railway authorities are so apathetic to the comfort and convenience of those very persons to whom all their affluence is due!

36. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 7th November complains that,

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Nov. 7th, 1903.

Railway complaints.

as a rule, only one inter-class carriage is attached to the Punjab Mail train, and never are more than two so attached. The result is that many inter-class passengers are often obliged to travel third class. The East Indian Railway authorities should remove this inconvenience.

It is seen that a placard marked "Reserved," without any name or address on it, is daily hung against one of the inter-class carriages. This is no doubt a dodge to deceive ignorant passengers, most of whom think that the carriage has been reserved and do not therefore enter into it. At last some passengers are seen to enter those compartments and then the placards are removed. There is certainly some mystery in this, which will be out if an enquiry is held.

(h)—General.

37. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 1st November is indignant

Government's expenditure of the people's money, which is sometimes punishable under the Penal Code.

that though reports of water-scarcity and want of roads pour in from various parts of the district, Government pays no need to them. On the other hand, however, the municipal tax and the road cess are gradually increasing. The people and the rate-payers are being deprived of their money in a hundred different ways, but the authorities never care to spend even a part of the amount realised on the purpose for which they say that money is being raised. Whenever English officials demand money, the Indians must pay. Whenever there is need of money, a law is passed or a circular is issued, and the responsibility of Government ends there. But whoever collects money from the people for some avowed purpose and does not spend it for that purpose, is punishable under section 406 of the Indian Penal Code for criminal breach of trust. In this country, the British Government spends the money of the people for widely different purposes. Sometimes money is freely spent for the benefit of England or the English people, but not at all for the good of this country. But for this Government does not make itself liable to punishment under section 406 for criminal breach of trust!

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 1st, 1903.

38. A correspondent of the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika*

A postal grievance.

[Calcutta] of the 4th November complains of the want of a letter-box in the Chinagram village under the Bainchi post office in the Hooghly district. The want is keenly felt in Chinagram and the neighbouring villages, because the number of letters daily distributed and collected there is large. The postal authorities have been twice petitioned on the subject, but to no effect. The editor requests the Postmaster-General of Bengal to supply this want of the villagers.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 4th, 1903.

39. Referring to the Emerson case, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th November writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 5th, 1903.

The sequel of the Emerson case.

Emerson has refused to take Rs. 450 as compensation; he demands Rs. 7,500 from Government! All the other arrangements and concessions which Government proposes to make on his behalf have given him satisfaction. It is the weakness betrayed by Government and the encouragement given by Anglo-Indians to Emerson, that have emboldened him

thus to repeat his demands. Many persons in this country are unjustly sent to *hajat* and have to suffer loss through their supposed complicity in crimes. Does Government ever give compensation to any of them? Why then this special favour to Emerson? Is it not owing to the wrath of the Anglo-Indians which Government is anxious to appease? One of them writes to the *Bombay Gazette* advising the well-wishers of Emerson not to let him go home till Government has granted him adequate compensation! The only regret is that Government encourages such insolence, and, by giving way to Emerson's demands, has increased the impudence and haughtiness of Anglo-Indians.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 6th, 1903.

40. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th November writes as follows:—

Persecution of Bengalis in Assam where outside Bengal. In Bihar and Assam, Bengalis do not get service, and not even their children are allowed to read in all the schools. It is a matter of great regret that the present Chief Commissioner of Assam intensifies this strained relation by showing undue partiality to the Assamese. The Assamese see that their Government is not well disposed towards Bengalis, and they feel encouraged to harass and humiliate them. Even Assamese school-boys do not shrink from behaving badly towards Bengali teachers, and if the latter take any steps to chastise the former, they are reported against by the guardians of the boys. Recently an Assamese boy beat a Bengali teacher in Gauhati. Our correspondent says that the case arose out of the prevailing ill-feeling between Assamese and Bengalis. The correspondent also says that to none of the meetings which are being held in connection with the ensuing ceremony of opening the "Curzon Hall" in Gauhati, are Bengalis being invited, although the Hall has been built with money paid by both Assamese and Bengalis.

HITAVADI.

41. The same paper says that the Postal Department does great injustice

Grievances of postal signallers. to the signallers in matters relating to pay, promotion, etc. They are required to do clerical work in addition to their duties as signallers, and yet they do not receive from the authorities even that amount of favour and kind treatment which is accorded to clerks, pure and simple. A correspondent says that formerly postal signallers were under the Postmaster-General and could serve in all post-offices within a circle and get promotion whenever a post became vacant within that circle. But under the current rules, a signaller cannot be transferred from one district to another and can get no promotion so long as a vacancy does not occur within the district in which he serves. Generally there are not more than 7 or 8 telegraph offices in a district. The prospect of promotion before the signaller is therefore almost nil. The postal authorities cannot expect to get good work from signallers not handsomely paid.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Nov. 9th, 1903.

42. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 9th November has the following in its English columns:—

The Bengali Head Assistant of the Assam Secretariat.

The Bengali Head Assistant of the Assam Secretariat has applied for retirement, it is said, under circumstances which are not very creditable to the present Head of the Administration. Mr. S. C. Dhar is a thoroughly honest and capable man, and it will be hard to replace him. It is surmised that a Eurasian will be put in his place. The Eurasians are now very much in requisition; the regret is that they do not turn up in sufficient numbers.

III.—LEGISLATION.

CHERU MIHIR,
Nov. 3rd, 1903.

43. The *Cheru Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 3rd November writes that the

The Co-operative Credit Societies Bill.

manner in which Government proposes to establish agricultural banks in this country is the same as that in which many Co-operative Societies in Europe and America have been formed. But in those countries shareholders receive dividends. We do not believe that the cultivating classes in our country will advance their money merely with a view to help each other. It is to be hoped that Government, in going to establish agricultural banks, will keep in view the circumstances of the people of this country and make such provisions as will be suitable to them.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

44. Babu Krishna Das Salui, M.A., writing to the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 4th November, speaks of the prevalence of extreme distress in the Patashpur pargana within the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district. Chaudhuri Gopendranandan Das Mahapatra, the generous and noble-hearted zamindar of the pargana, is feeding six to seven hundred poor every day. Three hundred people have taken shelter in his *dharmasala*. May God bless him.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Nov. 4th, 1903.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

45. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 4th November writes as follows:—
The appointment of Sir Andrew Fraser, who is not a Bengal Civilian, to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal has led many people to indulge in various speculations. But we think that these fears are groundless. Routine work will go on as well under him as under a Lieutenant-Governor selected from among the Bengal Civilians. The hopes and aspirations of Bengal are the same under all. It is needless to entertain any fears in the matter.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Nov. 4th, 1903.

46. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th November has the following:—
On the 2nd November, Sir Andrew Fraser ascended the *masnad* of Bengal. Since his arrival in India in 1871, as a Civilian, he has served in the North-Western Provinces, and has, therefore, very little experience of Bengal. Ten years ago he was appointed a member of the Ganja Commission, and recently he served as President of the Police Commission. He was appointed as Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, after having been for some time Secretary for Home affairs under the Government of India. His father was a Missionary in the Central Provinces. As Home Secretary, we saw Sir Andrew preaching the gospel in the Church. This leads us to think that he must be a God-fearing man. Sir John Woodburn also was a North-Western Provinces Civilian, yet he succeeded in winning the admiration and love of the Bengalis by his goodness and sympathy. We hope Sir Andrew Fraser will also try to secure the love and esteem of the Bengalis. As he was the President of the Police Commission, he must have come across all the misdeeds of the Police. The hope may therefore be entertained that under him the Bengal Police will be cleared of the bad name that attaches to it. To-day, as representatives of the people of Bengal, we accord him a hearty welcome. May God grant that we may never have occasion to launch into unpleasant criticism of his actions.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 5th, 1903.

47. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 5th November writes as follows:—
On Monday last, His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser took over charge of his high office. On this auspicious occasion we heartily wish him well.

JYOTI,
Nov. 5th, 1903.

48. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th November congratulates Sir Andrew Fraser on his assumption of the office of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. It is hoped that he will bind his subjects to him by ties of gratitude.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 6th, 1903.

49. Referring to the strictures which have been passed by the *Statesman* newspaper on the conduct of the Government and the Native Press in the Emerson case, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th November writes as follows:—

HITAVADI.

Does not our worthy contemporary know that the decision of the Court which first tried the case when only Lane and not Emerson was in it, was not satisfactory; that when Government preferred an appeal to the High Court against that decision, Emerson's name was not mentioned; that it was the Chief Justice of the High Court who advised Government to bring Emerson into the case, and that it was only after hearing the case against Emerson that the Bow Street Magistrate in London passed orders for sending him to India?

We are at a loss to make out what sin Government committed in all this, and we fail to realise the soundness of the reasons on which our high-souled contemporaries are censuring Government's intention and action. Can the *Statesman* certify that if Emerson had been a native, the Anglo-Indian Press would have raised such a clamour in his favour? However that may be, we hope that after what has happened, this unpleasant and unpalatable discussion will be dropped for good.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 6th, 1903.

50. The same paper says that the native-hating Anglo-Indians of Burma and some newspapers of the same type are showering abuse on the "Babus," abuse that can proceed only from mean men, because the office of the Madras

Congress Committee has sent a few copies of Congress circulars to Burma. It is not known what makes these white-skinned gentlemen shudder at the name of the "Babus." The Congress will not in the least lose on account of their vituperations. The class of white-men to which they belong is well known to the Burmese, who will not be long in finding out the true meaning of what they say.

NAVA YUG,
Nov. 7th, 1903.

51. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 7th November accords a hearty welcome to Sir Andrew Fraser, the new Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Although he belongs to the Indian Civil Service, he is quite new to Bengal.

The new Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

It is therefore impossible to arrive at any definite judgment now as to his future actions. Relying completely on the will of God, the writer waits to see how His Honour acts.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 7th, 1903.

52. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 7th November has the following:—

The *Englishman* on future relations between Asia and Europe.

According to the *Englishman* newspaper, the possession of Asia is not to Europe a matter of unimportance; nay, it seems to be the will of Providence that the advancement of Europe is to be secured by means of the wealth and resources of Asia. The question, therefore, naturally arises in the mind, who is this Providence of whom the *Englishman* speaks? If he is not the Almighty Creator, Preserver and Destroyer of the Universe, but the white god of Hare Street, we should surely say—"May you, merciful Lord, have your heart's wish fulfilled." But can such a super-righteous resolve be attributed to the eternal and just Author of the Universe? Has Providence made Asia the abode of countless crores of human beings with the resolve that the whole of that vast continent should be a mere hewer of wood and drawer of water for Europe and should, if necessary, lay her heart under Europe's booted feet? Is that possible? Has Providence really recorded so badly against Asia, the cradle of wisdom and glory, contact with which has enabled Europe to make acquaintance with religion, morals, and manliness and thereby to make herself happy and blessed? We do not think that possible. What we believe is that fatigued and dormant Asia will awake in consequence of her contact with Europe. There may be a period of infirmity and decrepitude in the life of a man, but the earth enjoys perennial youth. It may be that a field that was once fertile has now become sterile, but who can deny that such sterility is sure to help it in regaining its lost fertility? That is why we believe that Asia is destined to again play the rôle of the world's teacher and guide. This contact of Asia with Europe has been brought about by Providence, and there are a thousand and one reasons why this should be neither doubted nor disputed. But to suppose that Providence would from His place in Hare Street decide the matter *ex-parte* is to question His impartiality. We cannot surely believe that only for the good of Young Europe, He will sacrifice Old Asia. The object of this coming together of Europe and Asia is very different. Europe will accept the religious thought of Asia, while Asia will, in exchange, receive the energy, activity, and material resources of Europe. Asia will supply Europe's want of spirituality and will, in return, learn business habits from Europe. We already see a prospect of the establishment of a changed human society which will be the result of a fusion of brute force with divine energy. The wonderful self-restraint of Japan, combining, as it does, the spiritual element predominant in Asia with the physical vigour and energy of Europe, furnishes a noteworthy illustration of this. This self-restraint displayed by Japan, full as it is of new vigour, in the present complications with Russia, is a marvel to

Europe. Nothing short of a union of East and West could have led to the formation of a people like the Japanese. It is not possible for Europe to show the patience which has been shown by that people. That patience, that endurance, that self-restraint is the result of an intellectual exercise which had gone on for ages. The national character of a people can never develop such virtues only with the aid of a world wide commerce, an incalculable army and a strong artillery, and immeasurable physical vigour, or only with the aid of science or statesmanship, however wonderful.

53. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th November contains a highly eulogistic article on Sir Walter Lawrence, headed "A Sympathetic Civilian." After giving the details of an incident in the career of the *ex-Private*

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 7th, 1903.

Sir Walter Lawrence, the *ex-Private Secretary to the Viceroy.*

Secretary to the Viceroy, narrated by the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* newspaper,—an incident, that is, in which about a quarter of a century ago, Sir Walter figured as the friend and protector of the Postal officer Rao Saheb Doulat Ram, when, in a railway carriage, the latter was abused by a Military officer,—the writer of the article under notice observes as follows:—

During the seven years that Sir Walter served in Cashmere, he was respected by almost every villager in that State. He brought consolation to the afflicted, sympathised with the weak and the suffering, pointed out to the poor the way to wealth, and pleased all by his aptitude for business. In cases of oppression of the weak by the strong, he bravely fought for the former. Sir Walter has always been known as a friend of the weak.

That is why, on the eve of his retirement from this country, his virtues are being recorded in letters of gold. Whatever the form in which he may choose to appear, an Englishman, whether civilian or military, statesman or merchant, is always with us an object of regard and reverence. The Englishman is our sovereign, and the sovereign is to us a god. Civilian or military, whoever succeeds in attracting our hearts by his sympathy is sure to remain enthroned therein for all time. We have heard of cases, though very rare, in which English military officers had befriended and protected oppressed natives. Some there are who, either through inadvertence or through defect of disposition, commit injustice and wrong. But the British Government has given us the right to freely criticise their doings. It is the sympathetic civilian and military officers of Government who are protecting, and will always protect, the Indians as well as the British administration in India. It is they who will set right the erring and leave behind them a model of good administration. There are occasional cases of oppression of natives by European soldiers. The present Commander-in-Chief having come to know this, is trying to make a recurrence of such cases impossible. It is men like His Excellency who are the real defenders of the empire.

It is for officers like Sir Walter Lawrence, whom the natives look up to for help, that they forget much of their suffering and troubles. Sir Walter always gave good advice to Lord Curzon and thereby guided him on the right path. In His Excellency's speech made at the farewell dinner given in honour of the *ex-Private Secretary*, the Viceroy referred in highly laudatory terms to his invaluable services. Sir Walter in his reply spoke about his affection for India. One secures affection by means of affection. Love me and I shall love you. Sir Walter understood this very well, and we hope that his countrymen and co-religionists also will understand it like him.

54. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 8th November, speaking of His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser, observes as follows:—

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Nov. 8th, 1903.

Sir Andrew Fraser, the new Lieutenant Governor of Bengal.

His father was a missionary in the Central Provinces. This leads us to think that Sir Andrew must be a God-fearing man. We hope that, though a North-Western Provinces Civilian, he will, like Sir John Woodburn, succeed in winning the good-will and esteem of the people of Bengal. With that hope in our heart, we, as representatives of the inhabitants of Bengal, accord him a hearty welcome. We hope he will be careful in promoting the good of the people committed to his care. As President of the Police Commission, he has made himself thoroughly acquainted with the shortcomings of the Bengal Police. We therefore hope that he will

consider the reform of the police as his principal duty. God grant that in future we may not have occasion to criticise his actions unfavourably.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 8th, 1903.

55. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 8th November says that Lord Curzon is shortly going to England. During his stay there he will, of course, see His Imperial Majesty King Edward VII. As the Viceroy of India, he has every right to lay our circumstances before the Emperor. We hope that His Excellency will not misrepresent us in the sublime darbar of our Sovereign in the manner in which he did at the Delhi Darbar in the presence of the Duke of Connaught.

HITAVARTA.

56. The same paper is sorry that the ill-treatment of coolies by the tea-planters of Assam is assuming a very serious form. Such cruel behaviour on the part of human beings within the British Raj is something which no one ever expected. It is only to a superficial observer that the British Government appears to be very enlightened, but it has many defects within itself. It is a wonder that during the administration of even Lord Curzon the partiality of officials for men of their own race is increasing without let or hindrance.

Treatment of tea-garden coolies
by the tea-planters of Assam.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 9th, 1903.

57. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th November has the following:—

Farewell to Mr. Bourdillon and
welcome to Sir Andrew Fraser.

It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to the Hon'ble Mr. Bourdillon who held the post of Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for some time. Although some of his actions in connection with the administration of Bengal greatly disappointed us, we still feel sorry at his departure. We also bid a hearty welcome to Sir Andrew Fraser, our new Lieutenant-Governor, who is a high-minded and true Christian. As a Christian he certainly believes that Hindus and Christians are brothers to each other. As a Christian he certainly fears that God will be displeased with him, as a ruler, if he shows partiality to his co-religionists at the expense of his Indian subjects, and probably he also believes that though God can protect him from the hands of his superiors, his superiors cannot protect him from the hands of God. Religious talk on the occasion of a welcome may displease him, but we talk so because we think that religion is the only thing which can keep a ruler wakeful and careful.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPKA,
Oct. 31st, 1903.

58. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 31st October observes that the proposal of Government to withdraw from the hands of the Municipal Commissioners the power of making assessment and to appoint separate assessors for the purpose shows that the Government doubts the fitness, uprightness, and impartiality of the Commissioners. This lessens the respectability of their position. The Commissioners of the Cuttack Municipality have admitted their unfitness by supporting the proposal.

Assessment of municipal taxes
by special assessors.

UTKALDIPKA.

59. The same paper observes that the Commissioner of Orissa has revised his Resolution of the 23rd July 1903, regarding the passing of processions with music in the streets of the town of Cuttack. According to the revised Resolution, no cost will be recovered for police deputed to regulate traffic in the streets when large processions pass through them and music will not be wholly prohibited on Sundays, but no procession with music must pass within a quarter of a mile of a place of Christian worship during the time of worship. The editor, commenting on the Resolution, observes that a quarter of a mile is about 1,000 cubits, and it has not been fair to fix so long a distance, and that a distance of 100 cubits would have been sufficient. He also says that it is unfair to make a rule in favour of the Christian religion only. This affects the Government policy of religious neutrality. If instead of making mention of places of Christian worship, the rule had been framed in general terms, so as to include places of worship of all the different religionists, there would have been no cause for complaint. Sunday having been mentioned in the police order, the Commissioner's attention

Orissa Commissioner's revised
Resolution regarding procession
with music in the streets of Cuttack
town.

was probably directed to the rectification of the anomaly concerning it; but it is a matter of regret that he did not see the unfairness of the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate in making mention of such a thing in the district order.

60. Adverting to the appointment of Mr. Brodrick as Secretary of State for India, the same paper says that the public are not satisfied with this appointment, because Mr. Brodrick, while War Minister, tried to throw the burden of military expenses on India, but as the appointment has been confirmed by the Emperor of India no comment on it is necessary.

Appointment of Mr. Brodrick as Secretary of State for India.

UTKALDIPKA,
Oct. 31st, 1903.

Fever in Cuttack and Jajpur.

61. The same paper says that fever is increasing in Cuttack town and is bad in Jajpur.

UTKALDIPKA.

Proposal to raise the pay of the Viceroy.

62. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th October says that the Judges of the Indian High Courts draw higher pay than Judges in other countries, and that a proposal for increase of the Viceroy's pay was submitted but was rejected.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Oct. 28th, 1903.

63. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 31st October is sorry to hear that the proposal for raising the pay of the Viceroy has not been successful.

GARJATBASINI,
Oct. 31st, 1903.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 14th November, 1903.

was properly directed to the residence of an anomaly concerning it; but it is a matter of regret that he did not see the necessity of the District Attorney of Police and the District Attorney in making mention of such cases in the district.

60. Attorney General's Department of State. The Department of State has been informed that the public interest in the case of the late Mr. [Name] is such that it is necessary to make a statement of the facts of the case to the public. The Department of State has been informed that the public interest in the case of the late Mr. [Name] is such that it is necessary to make a statement of the facts of the case to the public.

61. Attorney General's Department of State. The Department of State has been informed that the public interest in the case of the late Mr. [Name] is such that it is necessary to make a statement of the facts of the case to the public. The Department of State has been informed that the public interest in the case of the late Mr. [Name] is such that it is necessary to make a statement of the facts of the case to the public.

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